

December 2008/January 2009
A publication of the City of Grapevine

Don't be Fooled by the Grinch!
Tips for a safer and happier holiday season!

Before you leave the house:

- Employ the buddy system, because there really is strength in numbers.
- Carry only those items with you that you need and place your wallet in your front pants pocket.
- Do not take every credit card you own, just the ones you will need.
- Take only cash that you need, not your early inheritance.
- If you are going to get money from the ATM, use one in a very public place—preferably indoors. Most shopping malls have ATMs located inside.

While shopping:

- Pay attention when parking and remember where you parked. Later that will reduce the time you are vulnerable in a parking lot.
- Park in a well-lit area as close as possible to your destination. Stay away from bushes and places where someone could hide and surprise you when getting in or out of your car.

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- Pay attention to your surroundings. If someone is hanging around the parking lot, park somewhere else! If you see suspicious activity when returning to your car, return to the relative safety of the store or mall you were walking from and notify security or the police.
- Do not try to carry more than you can handle. It makes all the other aspects of being aware more difficult and makes you an easier target.
- Do not shop until you are worn out. When you become fatigued you may not be as alert and may become more forgetful.

Time to leave:

- Do not wait until closing to leave; consider leaving before dark when you can better view your surroundings for danger.
- If you will be traveling from



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Pancake Breakfast with Santa

**Saturday,
December 6th
Fire Station #1
601 Boyd Drive
7 to 11 am**

No charge for the event—donations welcome! Proceeds benefit the Fire Department's Honor Guard and the Public Safety Education. Santa arrives by helicopter around 8 am, and will be joined by Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Frosty & the elves. The Pipe and Drum Corp will entertain. 🍷



Parks and Rec News

Athletics

The Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (T.A.A.F.) Member City of the Year Award was presented to The City of Grapevine Parks and Recreation Department in recognition of promoting and improving the athletic programs for the City and the T.A.A.F. Since 1972, Grapevine has been involved with and supported T.A.A.F. in the positions of committee member, Games of Texas Liaison and State Sport Commissioner. The City has supported T.A.A.F. by hosting state tournaments, registering team sports and individuals and helped host the Summer Games of Texas in 2003-2004. Grapevine has earned Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze Member City Awards since 2002.

Winter Adult Flag Football 8 on 8

Registration: Dec. 28-Jan. 4

Late Registration: Jan. 5-12, 2009

Season: Jan. 18-March 8, 2009

Fee: \$315/team

Lake Grapevine Boat Ramp Passes

Boat ramp passes will be available for purchase beginning the third week of December at The Vineyards Campground & Cabins, 1501 N. Dooley Street.



Greener Cleaner Grapevine

Grapevine tote bags, \$5, and drink koozies, \$2, make great stocking stuffers. Quantities are limited and on sale at the Community Activities Center from December 5th to 20th.

Aquatics

Do you have your swim trunks ready? The Grapevine Aquatics Division will begin accepting applications in December for the 2009 aquatic season. Positions include facility managers, lifeguards, water safety instructors, swim lesson aides and cashiers. Lifeguards and water safety instructors must have current American Red Cross certifications. For more information, please visit the employment section at www.grapevinetexas.gov or call 817-410-3471.

Community Activities Center (CAC)

For information or registration, please visit the CAC at 1175 Municipal Way, or call 817-410-3450.

Letters to Santa

Kids, write Santa and get a response from the North Pole! Please don't forget to include your return address. Letters may be dropped off at any of these special North Pole mailbox locations: Main Street Gazebo, 325 Main Street; Cotton Belt Depot, 707 South Main; or the CAC. Letters must be received no later than December 19th.

New this year: Kids may now email letters directly to Santa Claus at santa@lettertosanta.us and receive a reply via email.

Zumba

Zumba combines fitness and motivating music with combinations of world dance creating a dynamic and exciting effective fitness system. Classes begin December 3rd and January 2nd.

Gingerbread House Building – December 6th

Bring your family to the CAC on Saturday, December 6th to build your own gingerbread dream home! We will provide the construction materials; you provide the creativity, holiday cheer, and extra candy to decorate your house.

Three different times available: 10:30 am, 1 pm, and 3:30 pm. Register early to secure your spot. At \$18 per house, you may build one for the whole family or buy one for each person.

Brown Bag Lunch with Santa – Wednesday, December 17

Bring a brown bag to the CAC for lunch with Santa Claus! After lunch, kids can listen to holiday storytelling provided by the Grapevine Public Library, visit with Santa, make a holiday craft, or jump inside of a bounce house. Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided. The lunch area will open at 11:30 am with activities until 1 pm.

Winter Holiday Boot Camp – December 15-19

Change your body and workouts with this one-week, one-hour-a-day workout. Receive an easy-to-follow food menu, health and fitness tips, and start losing those unwanted pounds. This multi-level boot camp class is great for men and women of all ages. Classes are at 5:30 or 9 am.

Daddy Daughter Dance - Saturday, February 7th

The annual Daddy/ Daughter Dance is a magical evening filled with dancing, food, limousine rides, carriage rides, crafts and more. Tickets go on sale January 4th and will not be sold at the door. 🍇



...Grinch continued, from page 1

one shopping location to another, keep your gifts in your trunk.

- Some believe covering gifts in the back seat with a blanket will fool a thief, but you are actually only fooling yourself.
- Most importantly, BE AWARE! Be suspicious and trust your gut because it is your best defense against becoming a victim of crime.

Home safety tips:

- All entrances to your home should be well lit.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked when not in use.
- Trim bushes or trees that obstruct doors and windows so that you may see into your yard and allow neighbors to see your house.
- If you have an alarm system use it—

even when you are home.

- Mark your valuables with identification numbers (i.e., TX DL 12345678) and keep an updated inventory list with photos.
- Do not leave your garage door opener in your vehicle.
- Have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail when you are away for an extended time.
- Holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- If you plan to travel for the holidays, do not discuss your plans with strangers. Lock your garage door and activate the latch.

Auto safety:

- Always close your windows and lock your car doors. An open window or

unlocked door is an invitation to a criminal.

- Always remove loose valuables such as purses, wallets, cellular telephones, laptop computers, and briefcases from your vehicle.
- If possible, park your vehicle in an area that is visible to the public and well lit at night.
- Do not leave valuables or packages in plain sight in your vehicle.
- If your vehicle has a built in security system, use it.
- Keep a list of serial numbers for the commonly used electronic equipment you may keep in the vehicle, such as CD players, stereo faceplates, MP3 players, etc., and photograph the items. Keep the information in a safe location in the event of an emergency. 🍇

Senior Activities Center (SAC)

All activities are available to adults 55 years and more. For more information, please call 817-410-8130. The SAC is located at 421 Church Street.

Holiday Dinner Dance

Join us for our annual holiday dinner dance on Saturday, December 6th. Dinner begins at 6 pm; dancing at 7 pm with the Gary Lee Orchestra. The SAC will provide the entrée; guests bring a side dish. Admission is \$7 per person.

FOGSAC Tickets for Quilt Drawing

Friends of the Grapevine Senior Activities Center (FOGSAC) are selling tickets for a chance to win a beautiful green, lavender and white "Purple Botanicals" 69"x82" quilt completed by the Vine Quilters at the SAC. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and may be purchased at the SAC or from various SAC volunteers.



Computer Class Registration

Computer class registration takes place on Monday,

January 5th for the next session of free classes that begin the following week. Register in person from 9 am–12 pm, or by telephone from 1 pm–2 pm. A complete list of classes offered is available at the SAC or at www.grapevinetexas.gov beginning December 15th.

San Francisco and Lake Tahoe Trip (July 10-16, 2009)

Chris Keith from Collette Vacations will be at the SAC on Tuesday, January 20th, 10 am–12 pm for a slide show presentation followed by a question and answer forum.

MindFit

Begin that New Year's resolution to keep your mind sharp! Enroll in the MindFit program at the SAC and embark on a fun way to assess, train and enhance your cognitive skills. The 72 game-like sessions take 20 minutes each to complete on the computer.

SilverSneakers®

Stick with your New Year's resolution to get in shape by joining the SilverSneakers® fitness class offered Mondays and Wednesdays at 1 pm and Fridays at 11 am. Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activity for daily living skills. 🍇

Convention and Visitors Bureau News

Grapevine – The Christmas Capital of Texas

For more information, please call 817-410-3185 or visit GrapevineTexasUSA.com.

Through January 3rd: Gaylord Texan Resort's ICE! and Lone Star Christmas – Imagine a 14,000 square foot structure filled with two million pounds of ice kept at 9 degrees. "ICE!" is part of the Gaylord Texan's Lone Star Christmas celebration that features holiday activities for the entire family. Ice is hand-carved into magical life-sized holiday monuments and sculptures. The attraction runs through January 3rd. Visit www.gaylordhotels.com or call 817-722-9423 for more information.

Through December 21st: The Magic of Christmas – The Palace Theatre will feature *The Magic of Christmas*, a holiday musical presented by the Gaylord Texan Resort. The production brings fantasy to life, celebrating all the sights and sounds of the holidays. A very special vocal tribute reminds young and old of home, family and every child's dream of peace on earth and *The Magic of Christmas*. Nine performances will be held through December 21st.

December 1st: Carol of Lights – Holiday festivities in Historic Downtown Grapevine begin at 7 pm at the Main Street Gazebo with the Carol of Lights. The public is invited to this free event in which guests sing along with local choirs as the switch is thrown, lighting thousands of lights in historic downtown Grapevine.

December 1 – 22: Family Christmas Movies – Enjoy your favorite family Christmas film on the big screen at the Palace Theatre. Matinee and evening shows available, featuring *Elf*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *Home Alone*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Ticket price is \$7.50 per person, or \$5 with a same-day receipt from a Grapevine merchant.

December 4th: Parade of Lights – Thousands of merry-makers will witness an enchanting display of more than 100 colorfully lighted floats passing through Historic Downtown Grapevine. The parade is free and open to the public. Rolling to the tune of numerous marching bands playing holiday music, the Grapevine Parade of Lights is North Texas' largest lighted Christmas

parade. The parade begins at 7 pm at Main and Vine Streets and heads north on Main Street to Wall Street.

December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 & 21: Christmas on Main Street – Christmas on Main Street features carolers, holiday treats, Santa Claus, costumed characters, and decorations adorning the mile-long stretch of Grapevine's Historic Main Street.

December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 & 21: North Pole Express – Grab your pjs and hop aboard the North Pole Express. Enjoy carols, stories and a captivating encounter with Santa himself on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad. Advance tickets recommended.

December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20: Grapevine Opry Christmas Spectacular – Tap your toes and clap your hands at the grandest Opry in Texas! Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with the most acclaimed house band in the Southwest. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.

December 6th: Twinkle Lights Parade on Lake Grapevine – Lights, lights and more lights will sparkle during the Twinkle Light Parade on Lake Grapevine at dusk. This lighted boat parade begins at Scott's Landing and ends at Little Pete's.

January 2nd: First Friday Film Series at the Palace – Tickets are \$7.50 per person or \$5 with a same day receipt from any Grapevine merchant.

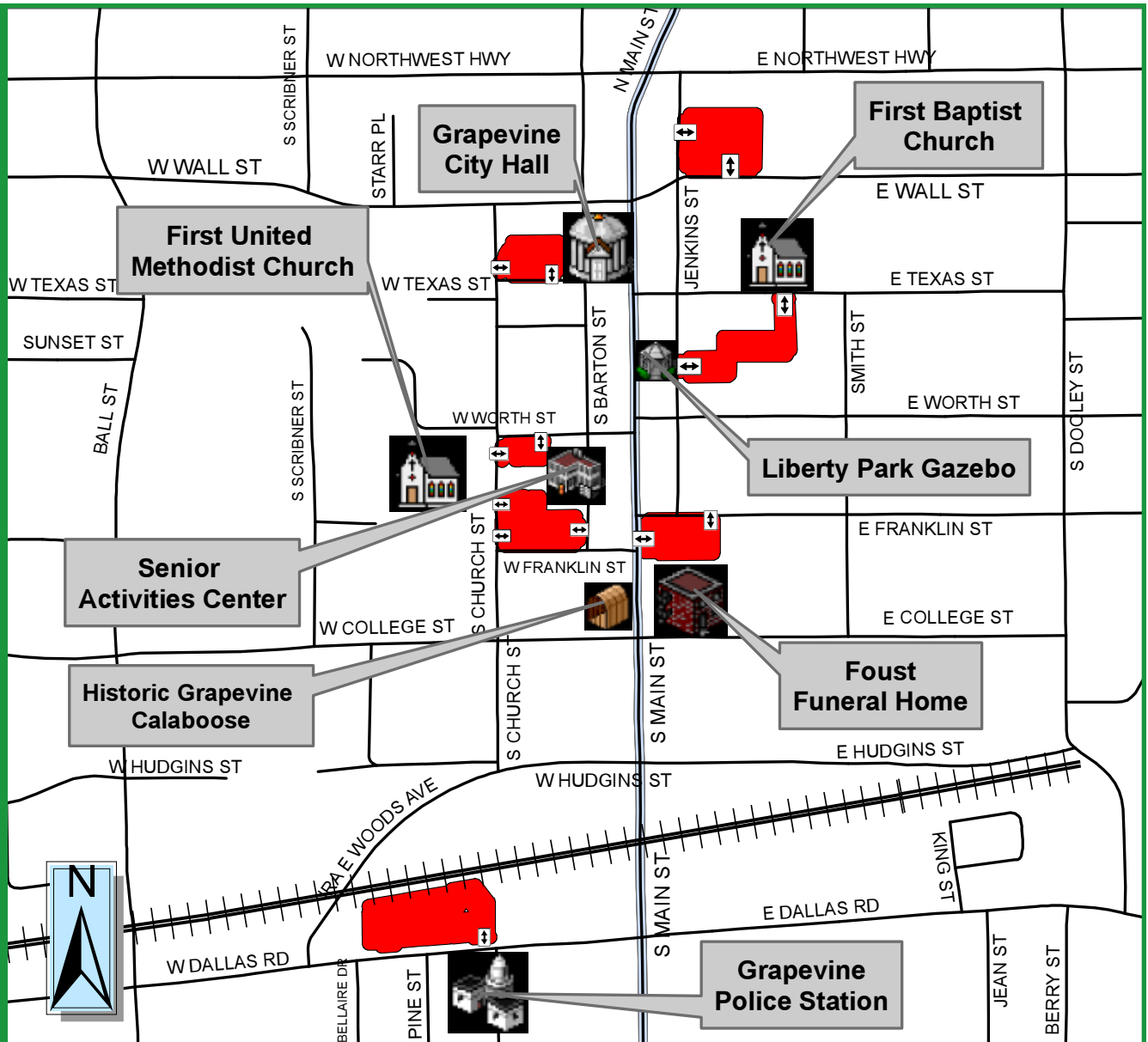
January 9th: The Sound of Texas Music Series – Palace Theatre – 7:30 pm. Come relish the art and culture of chamber music with Melange Musical, a Grapevine-based ensemble.

January 16th: The Sound of Texas Music Series – Palace Theatre – 9:30 am, 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Deep in the Heart is back by popular demand! The Kids Who Care original live musical production celebrates all things Texas, and is appropriate for all ages.

January 30th: The Sound of Texas Music Series – Palace Theatre – 7:30 pm. One of the most sought-after acts in the Southwest, yet so local they hang out right here on Main Street. The Zack King Band will bring their fresh take on rock, pop, and blues to the Palace Theatre stage for the first time. The three-member band knows how to rock! Opening Band: Dove Dynamic Drummers. 🍷



DOWNTOWN PARKING MAP



Enjoy the holiday festivities in Historic Downtown Grapevine without the hassle of paid parking! Free public parking lots, in red, are available throughout the downtown area for your convenience.

Santa Cops

The Grapevine Police Department is full-steam ahead with the 2008 Santa Cops Program. This wonderful program delivers toys to economically disadvantaged children in the community. Last year the Santa Cops program delivered toys and joy to 488 families and 1443 children in the GCISD area.

The Santa Cops program is funded entirely by local donations; it is organized and implemented by Grapevine Police Officers & V.I.P.s, their families, and community volunteers. To donate a new, unwrapped toy, drop it by the

Police Department at 307 W. Dallas Road, or to drop boxes located at the Senior Activities Center, Community Activities Center, Central Fire Station, and City Hall. Cash

The 2008 Santa Cop Toy Shoppe will again be located at 520 S. Main Street. Anyone interested in wrapping the toys is invited to help on December 4th, 9th, 11th, 16th, and December 18th, if necessary.

Willhoites Restaurant collects toys



for Santa Cops all during December, but on Thursday, December 11th from noon until midnight, customers are invited to bring toys, fellowship, and share the joy of Christmas with Grapevine Police officers.

For further information, please contact the Community Relations Division of the Police Department: Officers Tim Gill at 817-410-3209, Jason Keller at 817-410-3229 or Scott Rhodes at 972-724-2126.

Grapevine Library

December

6	10 am-4 pm	Artisans' Marketplace
7	2:30 pm	Quilt Chat
8	10:30 am	Namedroppers
13	10:30 am	DFW Machine Knitters Guild
18	7 pm	Eules Trinity High School show choir
18	6 pm	Seminar: Texas Universal College Application

January

10	10:30 am	DFW Machine Knitters Guild
11	2:30 pm	Quilt Chat
12	10:30 am	Namedroppers

Adult Library Programs

Artisan's Marketplace – The 4th Annual Artisan's Marketplace on December 6th from 10 am to 4 pm includes art glass, watercolor prints, pottery, art note cards, woven baskets, knitted sweaters, ponchos, scarves, fantasy related graphites, oils, hand-made sterling jewelry, hand-woven and dyed shawls, blankets, towels, rugs, tapestries, photography and holiday wreaths! Proceeds benefit the Library.

ABC-CLIO: Your Complete Source for History Reference – The Friends of the Library have provided access to a series of ABC-CLIO research databases that include U.S. Geography; World Geography; American History; American Government; Ancient and Medieval World History; Modern World History; United States at War, and Current Issues. Access is from Library computers or www.grapevine.lib.tx.us (then click on "online resources").

Harmony, Eules Trinity High School's elite show choir, will present an enjoyable evening of Christmas songs and dance in the Program Room on Thursday, December 18th at 7 pm.

Carmen Bost of TTU will present an informational seminar in the Board Room on Thursday, December 18th at 6 pm about the common application for Texas colleges and universities.

Children's Library Programs

Rudolph and the Misfit Toys – December 11th, 7 pm. The Story Time Theater will present a fun and interactive play of this holiday classic for Family Storytime.

Nutcracker Puppet Show – December 13th, 2 pm. Nutcracker in a Nutshell (Performed by 2 Nuts) is a 20-minute puppet show mini version of E.T.A. Hoffmann's classic holiday story.

Fiesta Para Las Posadas – 17 de diciembre a las 6:30 pm. No se pierdan esta gran fiesta en la biblioteca para toda la familia. El miércoles vamos a celebrar Las Posadas con piñatas.

Pinata Party for Las Posadas – December 17th, 6:30 pm. Celebrate Las Posadas with a piñata party.

Steam, Water, Snow and Ice with The Snow Queen – January 15th, 7 pm. This show is a science show teaching the children about the different forms that water can take. They will also learn about deserts and the coldest places on earth. 🍇



2009 City Officer Election

The Grapevine City Officer Election is May 9, 2009. The first day a candidate may file an application for a place on the ballot is February 9th. Grapevine City Council members are elected at large, meaning that each represents the entire citizenry. The last day a candidate may file an application for a place on the ballot is Monday, March 9th. Mayor, City Council Place 1 and City Council Place 2 are up for election this year.

Informational candidate packets will be available after January 12, 2009, in the City Secretary's Office, City Hall, 200 South Main Street, First Floor, 817-410-3182. 🍇

Passports and Texas Birth Certificates

The City Secretary's Office in City Hall can help you obtain a Passport or Certified Texas Birth Certificate.

Passport applications are accepted by appointment only from 9 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday. The U.S. Department of State also provides valuable information regarding travel abroad and passport information at www.travel.state.gov

Certified Texas Birth Certificates are available for persons born from 1926 to present (children must be two months old). Cost is \$22 per certificate, and are issued daily from 9 am to 4:30 pm at the City Secretary's Office. Applications may be downloaded online at www.grapevinetexas.gov/depts/citysecretary.

For additional information or to schedule an appointment for a passport, please contact call 817-410-3181. 🍇



Cleaner **GREENER** Grapevine



The Bottom Line on Tap Water vs. Bottled Water

Water that comes out of your tap is as safe, clean and healthy as bottled water. In 2006, Americans consumed eight billion gallons of bottled water. Most people believe, due largely to marketing pitch, that bottled water is purer than tap water. Our tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), while bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The standards (the allowed concentrations of various contaminants) are almost identical for both. However, EPA regulations and oversight are far stricter than FDA regulations. Tap water is monitored by certified operators throughout the treatment process and in the distribution system. Operating reports are required monthly by the TCEQ to verify that we have met water quality standards on a daily basis. These reports also include results of bacteriological samples that are collected throughout the

distribution system. The FDA has fewer inspections of bottled water facilities and does not have the same rigid regulations for bottling facilities.

One area that tap water is actually better than bottled water is in fluoride. Grapevine tap water contains fluoride, a chemical that promotes healthy teeth. Most bottled water does not contain fluoride as it is lost during the process of filtration. 🍇

Please remember that outdoor watering is allowed only between 6 pm and 10 am year-round.

Tap Water is free...well, almost! Bottled water can cost up to 1,900 times the cost of tap water, according to Jan Houlihan, an environmental engineer who co-authored a two-year study done by the Washington-based Environmental Working Group, an organization founded by scientists that advocates stricter regulation. As much as forty percent of bottled water actually comes from tap water. Tap water is again treated, distilled, filtered and repackaged as bottled water. There is also an environmental cost to making, collecting and disposing the bottles since petroleum is used to make the bottles. Fossil fuels are used to re-treat and purify water that is already safe and clean. Add to that the transportation and distribution costs. Tap water, on the other hand, costs only pennies a day with no environmental burden.

Just in time for Christmas! Parr Park Bicentennial Pecan Tree Program

A second shipment of wood artwork made from the Parr Park Bicentennial Pecan Tree has arrived for that special holiday gift.

This historic Grapevine tree was recognized in early 1990 by the International Society of Aboriculture as a tree that may have been alive at the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

On March 20, 1990, the

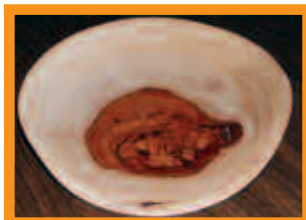
Grapevine City Council recognized the tree with the passing of Resolution No. 90-08, designating it as a "Historic Tree of the City" due to age, type, size and historic association.

Having survived two lightning strikes and the development of Parr Park, this mighty pecan tree fell to the earth during a windstorm on Wednesday, May 2, 2007.

To honor the tree, The Woodturners of North Texas were commissioned to create art pieces from the wood including vases, platters, goblets, wine stands, and more. Additional pieces from the remaining wood will be commissioned next year.



The available art pieces are on display at City Hall and will be available for sale beginning Monday, December 8th. Prices range from \$30 to \$200. A limited number of slim-line pens are still available for \$50 each, and include a handsome wooden display case. All purchases will include a Certificate of Authenticity to prove that the wood came from this historic tree. The pieces may also be viewed on the City's website at www.grapevinetexas.gov. 🍇



22nd Annual Limited Edition Ornament

Nash Farm House

Thomas Jefferson Nash and his wife Elizabeth Mouser Nash left Kentucky in 1854 for Texas with their three children. After spending a night camped in Grapevine before reaching the Birdville area, they were so impressed with this area that they decided to return later and settle in Grapevine. From 1859-1860 they purchased 245 acres of farm land. Their first home was a log house near the railroad tracks.

After Thomas and his brother William returned from the Civil War, they began construction on a two-story, seven-room frame home in 1869. This home was built north of the log house on Ball Street.

This farmhouse was extensively re-modeled in 1948 and brought back to its original design in 2008 by the Grapevine Heritage Foundation with donations and grants.

This ornament is presented by the Friends of the Grapevine Library for \$10.00 each and available at the Circulation Desk. 🍇



Holiday Office & Trash Schedules

City offices will be closed for Christmas holidays on December 24th and 25th, and on January 1st for New Year's. Essential services will remain operational during these times.

Brush & Bulk will be picked up as scheduled on Wednesday, December 24th. Trash service normally provided on Thursday, December 25th, will be provided on Friday, December 26th. Service normally provided on Friday will be provided on Saturday, December 27th.

Service normally provided on Thursday, January 1st, will be provided on Friday, January 2nd. Service normally provided on Friday will be provided on Saturday, January 3rd. 🍇

WHOM TO CONTACT

Animal Control	817-410-3370
City Hall	817-410-3000
City Manager's Office	817-410-3105
City Secretary's Office	817-410-3481
Community Activities Center	817-410-3450
Fire Department	911, 817-410-8100
Municipal Court	817-410-3284
Grapevine Library	817-410-3400
Parks & Recreation	817-410-3470
Police Department	911, 817-410-3255
Parks & Recreation	817-410-3470
Public Works	817-410-3330
Senior Activities Center	817-410-8130
Website	www.grapevinetexas.gov

The Grapevine is a publication of the City of Grapevine. Questions regarding this issue should be directed to Jennifer Hibbs, Assistant City Manager, at 817-410-3105 or jhibbs@grapevinetexas.gov. Special thanks to the following staff for their contributions: Linda Huff, City Secretary's Office; Lisa McCowan, CVB; Janis Roberson, Leigh Burnham and Scott May, Grapevine Public Library; Mona Pimentel, Parks and Recreation; Kent Conkle and Dewey Stoffels, Public Works; Kim Smith, Jason Keller and Tim Gill, Police Department; Matt Brogan, GIS; Stephanie Rivera and Pam Kinkema, City Manager's Office.



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